

Attorney Docket: WALK.01USU1

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

- 1.-3. (cancelled without prejudice)
4. (currently amended) A self propelled walk behind mower comprising:
 - a tractor unit having a forward end and a rearward end that define a lengthwise direction;
 - an engine mounted on said tractor unit;
 - hydrostatic drives mounted to said tractor unit that are driven by said engine;
 - drive wheels coupled to said hydrostatic drives at said forward end of said tractor unit;
 - a third wheel pivotally attached to said rearward end of said tractor unit that allows said tractor unit to stand upright with respect to a plane defined by said drive wheels and said third wheel when no implements are attached to said tractor unit and is fully supported by said drive wheels and said third wheel ~~and allows said tractor unit to make substantially zero radius turns;~~
 - handles attached to said tractor unit that extend rearwardly in said lengthwise direction, and that have controls that allow a user to control said tractor unit;
 - deck attachment arms that extend in a forward direction from said forward end of said tractor unit ~~and that pivot at said forward end of said tractor unit in a direction that is transverse to both said plane defined by said drive wheels and said third wheel and said lengthwise direction;~~
 - a pivot attached to said forward end of said tractor unit and to said deck attachment arms that allow said deck attachment arms to pivot about an axis that is transverse to said lengthwise direction;
 - a mowing deck having a forward end and a rearward end, and at least two front wheels mounted on said forward end of said mowing deck; ~~said mowing deck having~~
 - deck attachment receivers disposed at said rearward end of said mowing deck that detachably engage said deck attachment arms so that said mowing deck pivots with respect to said tractor unit ~~in a about said transverse axis direction that is transverse to~~

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~~both said plane defined by said drive wheels and said third wheel and said lengthwise direction, which allows said mowing deck to follow elevational changes as said self propelled walk behind mower traverses terrain having slopes that change with respect to both said plane and said lengthwise direction such that said handles maintain a substantially constant elevational position with respect to said user in said plane so that said user can operate controls of said self propelled walk behind mower without substantial elevational movement of said handles in said plane while said self propelled walk behind mower traverses said slopes that change with respect to both said plane and said lengthwise direction.~~

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 3- 4 further comprising:

a suspension that detachably connects said mowing deck to said tractor unit and supports said rearward end of said mowing deck.

7. (new) The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 6 wherein said deck attachment receivers further comprise:

a compliant connector that allows said mowing deck to flexibly move with respect to said tractor unit.

8. (new) The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 7 wherein said pivot further comprises:

a pivot that operates in a range of approximately five degrees above and below said plane defined by said drive wheel and said third wheel.

9. (new) The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 6 wherein said hydro drives further comprise:

a first hydro axle that is attached to a first wheel and that powers said first wheel, so that said first wheel rotates in a forward and reverse direction in response to an input from an operator;

a second hydro axle that is attached to a second wheel and that powers said second wheel so that said second wheel rotates in a forward and reverse direction in response to an input from an operator.

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10. (new) The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 9 wherein said drive wheels are substantially aligned with said pivot in said lengthwise direction at said forward end of said tractor.